

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1, 5, 6, 8-12, 15, 19, 23, 24, 26-30, 33, 36, 38-43, 46, 50, 52-56 and 59 were pending in the application. Applicant hereby cancels claims 8-12, 15, 26-30, 33, 39-43, 46, 52-56 and 59 without prejudice to further prosecution in one or more continuation applications. Claims 1, 19, 38 and 50 are amended. New claims 62-70 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 5, 6, 19, 23-24, 36, 38, 50 and 62-70 are pending in the application.

The previously pending claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and/or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Kominami et al. and, in the case of the 103(a) rejection, further in view of Elmers et al. In response to the Applicants' previously presented arguments concerning applicability of the Kominami reference, the Examiner contends that Kominami is a proper citation because a "motor vehicle" is not the same as an "automobile heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system" or an "automobile sound system".

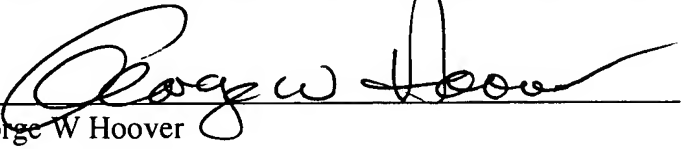
Applicant has hereby amended independent claims 1, 19, 38 and 50 to expressly recite an "automobile sound system" in lieu of a "motor vehicle". New claims 62, 65, 69 and 70 are corresponding claims that expressly recite an "automobile heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system". Accordingly, there can be no doubt that the amended and new independent claims, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, are fully supported by the disclosure of Applicants' prior issued U.S. Patent No. 6,256,378. Therefore, Kominami is not a proper citation against any of the pending claims.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that all claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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6/26/06
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